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The Sparrows of Agra

Tales of Akbar and Birbal

आग्रा शारांतल्यो गुर्बं ज्यो





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Illustrated by: Narsi. Translated in Konkani: Jaishri Shaanbhag This Publication is sponsored by: Shri Ramadas Kamath U., Bangalore. Birbal was one of the gems in Emperor Akbar's court. He used his wit to help others and his fame had spread far and wide.

Yet, there were many who were jealous of him.



बीरबल हो अकबराले आस्थानांतुले एक व्हड रत्न म्हणुयेत. आपण्याले शाणेपणान तो मस्त लोकांक मदत करताशिलो आनी हाजीरजवाबीपणान तागेली कीर्ति दूर दूर पसरिली.

जाल्यारी तागेलें नांव आयकल्यारी मत्सर पावचे लोक खूब आशिले.



Chand was one such man. He saw how much Akbar liked Birbal and he thought, "I am more learned than anybody in the kingdom. I should be given Birbal's place."



तांतुभित्तरी एकलो आशिलो चांद. सम्राट अकबरान बीरबलाक भारी सम्मान करचे पळोवन ताका पोटजाळ. "हांव ह्या राज्याचो होड ज्ञानी; विद्वान. बीरबलाक फावो जावचो मान म्हाकाय मेळका." अशें तांणे विचार केलो.





Chand decided that he would ask Birbal a very difficult question.

"When he fails to answer it, he will have to resign and I will become Akbar's favourite," he thought laughing to himself.

देखून बीरबलाक एक कठीण प्रश्नो विचारतां म्हण चांदान निश्चय केलो.

"बीरबलाक त्या प्रश्न्याक उत्तर दिवचाक जायनाशी अपयश आयल्यार तो लजेन हें राज्य सोडून वेतालो, तेन्ना हांव सम्राट अकबराले 'काळजाचो गोंडो' जातालों." अशें मनांतूची मांडे खायत हासलो चांद. He went to Akbar's court and challenged Birbal.

"Birbal!" he called, "Can you tell me how many sparrows there are in Agra? You must give me the exact number."



चांदान सम्राट अकबराले आस्थानांतु वचून बीरबलाक आह्वान दिलें.

"कित्तरे बीरबल, ह्या आग्रा शारांतु कित्ल्यो गुर्बं ज्यो आस्साती म्हण सांगशि कि तूं? हे पळय म्हाक्का निश्चित आनि बिनचूक संख्या सांगका तूंवे."



Everybody in the court, including Akbar was puzzled.

"How can anybody count the number of sparrows?" they wondered.



हो कुवाडो आयकून सम्राट अकबरा समेत दरबारांतुले सगळे हैराण जाले.

"कोणे सायबा ह्या पक्ष्यांक मेज्जुनु खडाखंडित संख्या सांगचि?" सगळे लोक विचारांत पडले.



However Birbal wasn't worried at all.

He calmly replied, "Give me time till tomorrow. In the morning, I will definitely give you the answer."



जाल्यारि बीरबल मात्र निश्चित आशिलो.

शांतपणान तांणे म्हळें – "म्हाक्का फाल्या पर्यंत अवकाश दिया. फाल्ले सकाळिं हांव तुमकां ह्या प्रश्रन्याचें उत्तर दितां."



The next day, everyone had gathered in the court to hear Birbal's answer.

Akbar asked, "Well Birbal, can you tell us the number of sparrows in Agra?"



हेरदिवसु बीरबल कितें उत्तर दिता कि म्हण आयकुचाक सगळेय आस्थानांत हाजीर जाले.

"कितें बीरबल, आग्रा शारांतु कित्ल्यो गुर्बंज्यो आसात म्हण सांगचा शकताकि तूं?" सम्राट अकबरान



Birbal smiled as he said, "There are exactly 19,537 sparrows! You can count for yourself and check."



"महाराज, आग्रा शारांतु ओट्टु 19,537 गुर्बंज्यो आसाती. जायजाल्यारि तुमी स्वता मेज्जुनु पळया." बीरबल्लान मुमुरकें हांसत म्हळें.



Chand knew he could never count all the sparrows and he refused to believe him.

"How can you say that?" he demanded.
"There may be more or less."



बीरबलाक एक एक गुर्बंजी लेक करून सांगचाक साद्यना ही गजाल चांदाक खबर आशिलि. देखून तांणे बीरबल्लान सांगिले हें उत्तर मानिलना.

"तें कशें सांगचा शकता तूं? एकादी पक्ष्यो तूंवे सांगिले परस चडिय उरतीत किंवा कम्मीय उरतीतमुं?"



"No, there are exactly 19,537 sparrows," said Birbal. He continued, "If there are less, it means that sparrows from the city have left to visit other places."



"ना..ना आग्रा शारांतु 19,537 गुर्बं ज्योचि आसाती." बीरबलान निश्चित पणान सांगलें. "कमी आसात तर ताचो अर्थ कि म्हळ्यार, ह्या शारांतुल्यो गुब्बच्यो परगांवाक भोंवचाक गेलिल आसचा फाव."



Akbar smiled. "And what if there are more sparrows?" he asked.

"Oh, those are the sparrows from different cities that have come to visit their relatives here!" Birbal replied immediately.



"तूंवे सांगिले परस जास्त आसात जाल्यार कितें?" अकबर महाराजान मंदहासत विचारलें.

"तर, परगांवचान सोयरेगुर्बं ज्यो ह्या शारांतुले कोणाथंय कि आयल्या आसतल्यो" बीरबलान हाजीर जवाब दिली.



The whole court laughed at Birbal's clever answer.

Chand had to accept defeat and agree that Birbal was indeed the wisest man in the kingdom.



बीरबलाले चालाकपणाचे उतराक सबंद आस्थान हासलें.

चांदाक आपण्यालें अपयश कबूल करचे पडलें आनी राज्यांत बीरबल्लचि होड ज्ञानी आनी विद्वान म्हण मान्य करचे पडलें





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The Sparrows of Agra Tales of Akbar and Birbal आग्रा शारांतल्यो गुर्बंज्यो

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